

VZCZCXRO0355  
OO RUEHAG RUEHDF RUEHIK RUEHLZ RUEHROV  
DE RUEHTC #0301 0471526  
ZNR UUUUU ZZH  
O 161526Z FEB 07  
FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE  
TO RUCPDO/DEPT OF COMMERCE WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8225  
INFO RUCNMEM/EU MEMBER STATES COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE  
RUEHBM/AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST IMMEDIATE 1146  
RUEHSF/AMEMBASSY SOFIA IMMEDIATE 0437

UNCLAS THE HAGUE 000301

SIPDIS

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STATE FOR OES (JTHOMPSON)  
STATE PLEASE PASS EPA  
STATE PLEASE PASS USTR  
USDOC/ITA FOR LEE ZACHOS  
USEU FOR ROSEMARY GALLANT

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [ETRD](#) [BEXP](#) [NL](#)

SUBJECT: DUTCH RESPONSE ON EU CLASSIFICATION OF BORATES AND  
BORIC ACID

REF: USDOC 1282

¶1. Econoff conveyed reftel points on February 14 to H. Roelfzema, Senior Policy Officer/Toxicologist at the Dutch Ministry of Health and Dutch representative to the upcoming February 16 ATP meeting in Brussels. Roelfzema acknowledged receipt of the points but did not provide a response. Econoff also shared the points with Frits von Meijenfeldt, Head of the Division on Sustainable Development, Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs.

¶2. On February 16, Econoff followed up with Spencer Paul, Head of the Product Safety and Injury Prevention Division at the Ministry of Health. Paul said the Dutch will continue to support a decision to classify borates and boric acid as a Category 2 substance due to associated health and safety risks of the material. While acknowledging the economic implications of such a classification, he said the Health Ministry's position was firm, as public health, safety, and liability concerns had determined the Dutch position. He added that the Dutch Health Ministry would take the lead on this issue in Brussels as it related more to public safety than economics in the Dutch view.

BLAKEMAN